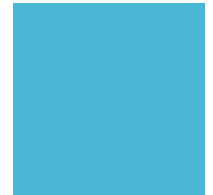
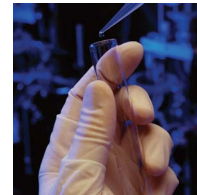




BIOLOGICAL ATTACK

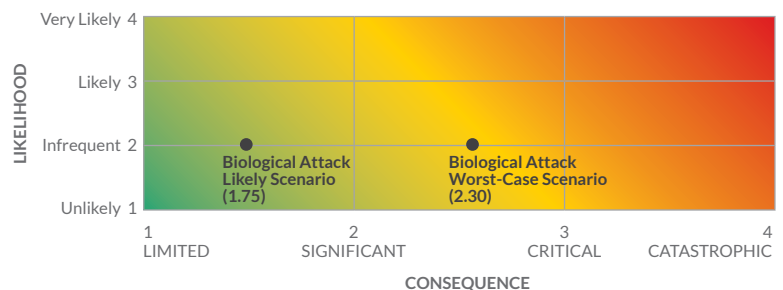


A Biological Attack is an intentional release of viruses, bacteria, or other germs (agents) used to cause illness or death in people, animals, or plants. Biological agents can be introduced and spread through a population by air, direct contact, water, or food. Although biological agents are not easy to grow and maintain, once introduced to a population they can be challenging to detect.

HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

There have been zero confirmed Biological Attack hazard events in Howard County during the reviewed time period (1996-2014). Emergency responders in Howard County were called out to 17 biological hazard incidents between 2008 and 2013. None of these incidents were confirmed as legitimate Biological Attack hazards.

RISK MATRIX



WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

There is an expected **1-10% Annual Likelihood** of a Biological Attack hazard in Howard County. In the most likely Biological Attack hazard, the **Total Impact is considered Limited-Significant**. In the worst-case scenario, the **Total Impact is considered Significant-Critical**.

DID YOU KNOW?

- A biological disease agent can be delivered in a variety of ways, ranging from delivery of an agent through the mail to discreet introduction into air, food, or water.
- The most prominent example of a Biological Attack in recent history was the 2001 Anthrax attacks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment readyhoco.com/hazards
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, emergency.cdc.gov/bioterrorism/overview.asp
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security dhs.gov/biological-attack-what-it
- Ready.gov ready.gov/biological-threats

LOCAL RISK OVERVIEW

Future Likelihood	Infrequent 1-10% chance of annual occurrence	
Impact	MOST-LIKELY	WORST-CASE
	Limited-Significant	Significant-Critical
Risk Score	1.75	2.30
Risk Ranking (High to Low)	Ranked #14 of 16 man-made hazards.	

BIOLOGICAL ATTACK IMPACT

Where no Worst-Case bar is visible, Worst-Case impact is equivalent to Likely Impact

